

Georgia Department of Human Resources

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN GEORGIA

THE PROBLEM

In Georgia

- 62,736 calls were made to domestic violence crisis lines in 2001.
- Georgia certified family violence programs provided shelter for 3,797 adults and 3,770 children in 2001.
- The Georgia Bureau of Investigation reports that law enforcement officers responded to 56,981 family violence incidents in 2000.

Nationwide

- One of four women reports that at some point in their lives a husband or boyfriend physically abused them. (Family Violence Prevention Fund, 1998)
- The U.S. Department of Justice reported in 2000 that approximately 4.8 million intimate partner rapes and physical assaults are perpetrated against U.S. women annually.
- Intimate partners murdered 1,218 women in 1999.
- Fifty percent of men who frequently assault their wives also abuse their children; the U.S. Advisory Board on Child Abuse and Neglect suggests that domestic violence may be the single most common factor leading to deaths from child abuse and neglect in this country.

THE RESOURCES

- Georgia has 43 certified family violence programs, operated by private, nonprofit organizations. They provide 24-hour crisis lines; legal and social service advocacy; children's programs; parenting support and education; emotional support; and community education. All of these programs also offer emergency safe shelters. All services are free and confidential.
- A statewide toll-free 24-hour crisis line: 1-800-33-HAVEN (334-2836) will automatically connect the caller to the nearest family violence agency.
- In FY 2001, the budget for family violence programs was \$9,218,058 (\$3,563,360 state and \$5,654,698 federal funds).
- TANF funds were used to establish a domestic violence assessor in all county DFCS offices to identify and provide services to domestic violence victims receiving or applying for TANF assistance.
- DHR's Advisory Committee on Domestic Violence consists of program staff and Coalition Against Domestic Violence representatives and members of the Georgia Commission on Family Violence who make recommendations to DHR about improving services to adult family violence victims and their children.
- The Family Violence Program in DHR's Division of Family and Children Services administers funds to Georgia's family violence programs. Staff also provide technical assistance and training, information to family violence staff and boards, and certification for shelters based on state standards.

- DHR's Family Violence Program staff collaborate with the Georgia Commission on Family Violence. The Commission addresses statewide issues affecting family violence victims and their children and works with local communities to establish judicial circuit task forces that review and create protocols for agencies working with victims.